

Mission: The West Lafayette Go Greener Commission promotes environmental health in our community for present and future generations. The commission gathers and disseminates information; plans and promotes practical initiatives and public policies; and measures, monitors, and reports on our community's progress on sustainability.

Accomplishments in 2010

Outreach and Education:

- In 2010 the commissioners made presentations for groups like WALLA and gave out information at events: CityBus donated the entrance fee for the Go Greener to race at Riverfest. (Winners-yes!) Had a filtered tap water vs. bottled water taste test. Almost all people tasted a difference between the two: tap water was the clear winner. Other events included: Art on the Green (Art Museum Greater Lafayette,) Battle Ground Spring Festival, GlobalFest, to name a few.
- We used different media to bring awareness to issues: Newspaper and magazines articles including Commissioner Rick Johnson's column that appears once or twice a month, speakers on WLFI's Living Green.
- Commissioners continue to serve with other organizations: Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, Hoosier Environmental Council, Boiler Green Initiative and Purdue Sustainability Council.

Natural Resource Stewardship:

This year two major programs focused on water quality

- Unwanted Medicine Dropoffs- (Commissioner Wayne Merriman and Officer Janet Shepard) in partnership with the Police dept.

The Go Greener Commission supported the WLPD in setting up a collection day each month starting last March. (Please keep in mind that this effort required the approval of the DEA, which was obtained by D.A.R.E. officer Janet Shepherd.) The program has proved to be very popular and a total of 300 or more folks have brought in their old out of date prescriptions and over the counter meds. We saw some dated as early as 1996. Some of the pharmacies would collect some drugs and then bring to us. The total amount collected was over 250 pounds. Many of those who brought in items thanked us for providing a place for safe disposal. We were also able to assure the people that there was complete privacy, since we did not look at the labels and the collections were locked up in the Property Room until Hippensteel was ready for us to bring them to their pet crematorium for complete incineration. Our objectives were to keep these drugs out of the hands of children and out of the water supply, since these drugs are not completely broken down during the waste treatment process. Chief Dombkowski, the Administration, and the DEA have approved a continuation of this program for once each month during 2011 so long as the public brings drugs to the Police Station.

- Partnered with Purdue and obtained a \$10,000 grant through the EPA P3 (People, Planet, Prosperity) program to distribute 100 rain barrels in Greater Lafayette for a subsidized cost of \$5. Worked with Purdue Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS). Held several educational workshops for residents in Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) neighborhoods. Sold ~25 rain barrels at the workshops and the other 75 at an "open house" at Purdue in an hour and

a half! Questionnaires were used to measure what people knew about water conservation and combined sewer overflows.

Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy:

- Energy audits performed at City Hall, Morton Center, Police Dept Building (Dan Schuster)
- Consultations regarding alternative fuels (Dan Schuster)

Other program / partnerships

- Studied and recommended implementing a metered trash system.
- CLEAN community challenge: (Commissioners Curt Ashendal and Allen Jacobson, Diane Damico) worked with city departments and other community stakeholders to come up with ongoing innovative projects to improve what the city departments can do to Go Greener.) WL was approved by the state in June as the 14th city in Indiana to qualify as a CLEAN community.
- Farmer's Market (Dawn Whitaker) – manned a booth at the WL Farmers' Market to collect more reusable or recyclable goods (eye glasses, hearing aids, light bulbs, others).
- Green Events Subcommittee (volunteers Linda Anderson, Bill Arthur, and John Schumann) Local events worked with this subcommittee to support recycling efforts, learn to decrease energy use and encourage alternative forms of transportation at large and small area events. We've increased the number of events who borrow our portable recycling bins, originally provided by a grant from Tipmont REMC.
- Eliminate Plastic Waste Subcommittee- (Commissioner Heather Gall- Preisenendanz) now working on assisting restaurants to change take-out containers to something more sustainable.
- Clear-Blue-Green Awards for business (Commissioner Lindsey Payne) Currently, 29 businesses have qualified as CBG businesses. The program designates businesses that are eco-friendly in their practices. The group will continue to host quarterly education and outreach meetings with GLC on sustainability (Sept, Dec, Mar, June). Will be participating in the upcoming "Green Tour" of WL/Laf. Working on launching our own website with resources for "green" throughout Tippecanoe County.

Governor's Award of Environmental Excellence

Plans for 2011

We have voted to continue all the current subcommittees and programs. Additionally:

- Our next public meeting is about Smart Development. Topics might include what "Complete Streets" means, info on zoning, what 'sprawl' means. Scheduled for March 22, 2011
- Study and recommend best practices for using phosphorous on lawns
- Help plan the Green Tour in the spring- like a green expo or 'show and tell' at different sites.
- Go Greener Community Harvest- Volunteers Ashlie Delshad & husband saw a need and are creating a program that will harvest surplus fruit and split it between the volunteers, homeowners and Food Finders.

- Membership on the commission is open to everyone. We have a 12 member voting board. Our terms end in February. New commissioners are needed to replace outgoing commissioners. Please let the mayor or me know if you'd like to be involved.